



*Remarks by Brigadier General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.,  
Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, at the  
Inland Waterways Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio,  
1 March 2001*

**Good morning. Welcome**

**Thank you for the opportunity to speak.**

**I'm pleased to be here along with other members of  
the Mississippi Valley Division team.**

**In light of your conference theme: "A Valued  
Resource: Partnerships, Best Practices, Lessons  
Learned", I want to mention the notion of synergy.**

## **Inland Waterways Trust Fund**

- **\$400 million**
- **\$120 million per year added**
- **\$80 million per year out**
- **Could survive \$160 million per year out and maintain a plus cash flow.**
- **By 2013 = \$800 million**

**The Corps' new Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Bob Flowers, uses the following definition by Stephen R. Covey: "Synergy is the fruit of thinking win-win and seeking first to understand . . . It's not compromise . . . It's the creation of third alternatives that are genuinely better than solutions individuals could ever come up with on their own."**

**In essence, this is what Partnerships and Partnering is all about.**

**Additionally, seeking Best Practices and Lessons Learned both contribute to creating that synergy.**

**The partnerships formed between the Corps, Coast Guard, and Industry are strong and well-founded.**

**We are all becoming more inclusive in the make up of our partnerships, and we will continue to do so as we advance waterways infrastructure in this country in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

**If indeed we are to move forward together in our respective water-related stewardships, it is imperative that relationships of open communication, candor, and trust are developed. None of us can afford to be provincial and rigid in our planning, outlook, and processes. We must seek solutions without boundaries.**

**Conferences such as this help catalyze and reinforce relationships that are essential to the cooperation that characterizes the current era of water resource stewardships.**

**In addition, such conferences provide a forum to identify opportunities for Best Practices and communicate Lessons Learned.**

**We need to ensure that we seek win-win situations through building on one another's ideas to develop better alternatives.**

**Over the years, the projects developed by the Corps in cooperation with its partners have time and again proven themselves to be wise investments of public funds.**

**As proud as we are of these accomplishments, we are equally proud of the relationships that we've developed over the years with state and local governments, civic organizations, the navigation industry, the environmental community, as well as the public and numerous other organizations.**

**These partnerships are very important to us, and necessary if we are to meet our current and future challenges.**

**Shifting gears now, I'd like to speak to my division's program.**

**For fiscal year 2000, the civil works program of MVD totaled one billion, one million dollars.**

**Appropriations contributing to this total program include the General Investigations; Construction General; Operations and Maintenance General; Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program -- or FUSRAP -- programs; and the Mississippi River & Tributaries project, Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act, Regulatory, Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies, General Expense programs.**

**Also, very valuable to any MVD program are the contributions provided by our cost-sharing partners, which for the FY 2000 program totaled \$34 million dollars.**

**Our five major appropriations - - General Investigations; Construction General; Operations and Maintenance General; the Mississippi River & Tributaries program; and FUSRAP totaled more than \$969 million dollars for FY 2000.**

**There was an overall increase of \$118 million dollars in all five major appropriations from FY 2000 to FY 2001.**



**I would like to highlight that within our FY 2000 General Investigations and MR&T General Investigations programs, approximately \$14 million dollars was directed towards navigation studies.**

**Within our \$227.9 million dollar Construction General program the New Orleans and St. Louis districts had the largest construction programs, which included 14 navigation projects.**

**The operation and maintenance of projects required \$365.0 million dollars in FY 2000. An estimated \$199 million was spent on inland navigation systems, and approximately \$98 million dollars was spent on maintenance of deep draft navigation channels.**

**Now, for FY 2001. . .**

**The FY 2001 program for regular appropriations includes \$25 million for studies, \$249 million for construction, \$365 million for operations and maintenance and \$55 million for FUSRAP. Funds in the amount of \$329 million were appropriated for the MR&T project.**

**As you can see, the Mississippi Valley Division program involves a wide range of navigation projects. Our six districts have a rich history with navigation on the Mississippi River, as well as its tributaries.**

**Since the passage of the MR&T project in 1928, the Corps has invested nearly \$2.6 billion dollars in channel stabilization works to maintain a channel 9-feet-deep and 300-feet-wide, even in adverse river conditions.**

**Our investment in the Mississippi River navigation system resulted in more than \$2 billion dollars in transportation savings in calendar year 2000 alone.**

**The nation, as well as MVD, remains strongly committed to maintaining a reliable navigation channel on the Mississippi River and its tributaries. We look forward to the future and the challenges that we face to improve and maintain our navigation infrastructure.**

**In closing, the political, economic, environmental, and strategic realities of today's world have challenged all of us to become more versatile, flexible, and responsive. And we've chosen to accept that challenge as a team -- combining our knowledge, experience, and skills.**

**Thank you and enjoy the rest of the conference.**